



1600 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
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March 12, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

As you know, Governor Schwarzenegger proposed structural reform of the Medi-Cal program in his January budget that will result in the long term in a Medi-Cal program flexible enough to meet the medical needs of beneficiaries at costs that are affordable to the State of California. The California Health and Human Service Agency has begun a process to obtain stakeholder input regarding potential reform strategies. More information about that process can be obtained on their website www.medi-calredesign.org. As a part of this stakeholder process, the Department of Mental Health (DMH) has been asked to facilitate obtaining stakeholder input on issues specific to specialty mental health services. The specialty mental health input process facilitated by DMH will provide recommendations to Medi-Cal Redesign workgroups. In the interim, we will be working to coordinate with the Department of Health Services.

To accomplish this, DMH will have two stakeholder meetings on March 25, 2004 and April 21, 2004 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Department of Social Services Building, 744 P Street, Sacramento, CA. There will be a premeeting primarily for clients and family members on both days at DMH headquarters 1600 9th Street, Sacramento. The premeeting March 25 will be from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon in room 250 D. and on April 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in room 120.

Core goals of the Medi-Cal reform effort include:

- Protect eligibility for those people currently eligible.
- Maintain essential services and align coverage with the private sector.
- Continue services to children as a Medi-Cal priority.
- Increase the personal responsibility of Medi-Cal beneficiaries by requiring that they share in the cost of their services and wisely use the benefits provided them by Medi-Cal.
- Promote work participation by continuing coverage of the working poor and providing eligibility standards that allow people to obtain Medi-Cal coverage while their work income increase.
- Improve program effectiveness and accountability by promoting organized delivery systems.

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Enclosed you will find a discussion paper outlining a set of strategies and options compiled by DMH that are intended to facilitate discussion. Additional suggestions are encouraged. We will be soliciting your ideas during the meeting. Please familiarize yourself with this document prior to the meeting.

Should you need any assistance in the areas of physical access, communication access or environmental access please notify DMH prior to the meeting.

Questions regarding the meeting, process or access may be addressed to Nancy Mengebier at 916-654-3486 or 209-722-6618, or email: nmengebi@dmhhq.state.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

CAROL HOOD
Deputy Director

Enclosure

Cc: KIMBERLY BELSHÉ
Secretary
Health & Human Services Agency

STAN ROSENSTEIN
Deputy Director
DHS, Medical Care Services